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NFIB 89.4
8 July 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

FROM: Executive Secretary
National Foreign Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Policy on Classification of National Intelligence Estimate
Titles and Numbers

Bob

1. At the instigation of Army Intelligence, the Defense Intelligence Agency has requested policy guidance as to whether NIE titles, when used with NIE numbers, must be classified SECRET (see Attachment A). There is an Army regulation to that effect, for which no one can find any underlying authority.

2. The Chief of the Classifications Review Division requested opinions from the National Intelligence Council, the Directorate of Intelligence Information and Records Officer, and the NFIB Secretariat (see Attachment B). The Secretariat responded that all titles and numbers, whether used together or not, should be classified SECRET. It cited as authority the National Security Classification Guide (FOR 9-82), which states that "information that reveals, or tends to reveal, specific US policy interests, options, concerns, or considerations which, if released, could negatively impact on the conduct of US foreign policy" should be so classified. Because many NIEs are written to support the reaching of specific US foreign policy decisions, the release of even the titles of these estimates could be revealing. And, while we may publish White Papers based on estimates, we no longer publish unclassified estimates.

3. The NIC and the DI/IRO concurred in the Secretariat's opinion, and the NIC suggested that this policy should now be promulgated in a memorandum from the Secretariat to the NFIB principals. Your predecessor would only have approved the Secretariat's doing so after referring the matter to him for decision. Would you so instruct the Secretariat?

/s/ Robert M. Gates

Approved:

Acting Director of Central Intelligence

Disapproved:

Acting Director Of Central Intelligence

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ICS 86-3357

2 July 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Classifications Review Division
Office of Information Services

FROM: Executive Secretary, National Foreign Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Policy on Classification of NIE Titles and Numbers

REFERENCE: Memo to Executive Secretary, CIA and DI/IRO fm
C/CRD, Subj: DIA Need for Policy Guidance on
Classification Status of NIE Titles and Numbers
(ER 86-2842x)

1. I am not aware of any document that sets forth policy on this matter.

2. NIE titles and numbers should, in my view, be classified SECRET. Because NIEs are often written to support the making of specific US foreign policy decisions, all reference to them justifiably falls under FOR 9-82 in the National Security Classification Guide--i.e., information that reveals, or tends to reveal, specific US policy interests, options, concerns, or considerations which, if released, could negatively impact on the conduct of US foreign policy.

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cc: Production Officer,
National Intelligence Council

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P-205-1r

SUBJECT: Policy on Classification of NIE Titles and Numbers

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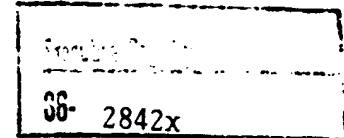
ES/NFIB,



(3 Jul 86)

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23 June 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, CIA
DI/IRO

FROM: C/CRD

SUBJECT: DIA Need for Policy Guidance on Classification Status
of NIE Titles and Numbers

1. Attached is a request from [redacted] Assistant Deputy Director for Security and Counterintelligence, DIA, for policy guidance from CIA on the classification of the titles of National Intelligence Estimates (NIE) when they are written together with the NIE number. [redacted] command has the responsibility for classification/declassification matters with DIA and, for such intelligence community items as NIE's and NISes, within the Department of Defense.

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2. [redacted] forwarded to us a portion of U.S. Army Regulation (AR) 381-19, Intelligence Support, dated 15 July 1981 (copy attached) which states: "Requestors are reminded that the correlation of an NIE number and its title is SECRET. Requests containing both the NIE number and title must be classified accordingly."

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3. DIA is now questioning whether this is a valid classification requirement. As will be seen from paragraph 2 of [redacted] memo, the source of this requirement is unclear. We are now being asked to clarify the issue.

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4. CRD has been unable to locate a DCID, other written policy document, or anyone who could identify the existence of a formal policy which requires automatic classification on an NIE title and number when written together. Your assistance is requested to:

a. Confirm what the policy is regarding the classification of NIE titles and numbers when they are written together;

b. How should we inform DIA of this policy, i.e. is a letter reply form OIS/CRD to [redacted] memo sufficient? Please advise.

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[redacted]

C/CRD

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Attachment: [redacted] memo with attac.

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-6111

U-6517/OS-4

12 JUN 1986

TO: Director
Central Intelligence Agency
ATTN: Classification Review Division
[redacted]
Washington, D.C. 20505

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SUBJECT: Classification of National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) Number and Title When Used Together

References: a. Telephone Conversation between [redacted] CIA and [redacted] DIA, 27 May 1986, subject as above.

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b. Army Regulation (AR) 381-19, Intelligence Support, 15 July 1981. (Enclosure)

1. DIA received a query from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (C&GSC), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, concerning the requirement stated in reference b. to classify as SECRET an NIE number and title when they are used together. The concern was that even though an NIE was unclassified, reference b. still required the NIE to be classified SECRET because its number and title were used together.

2. The Army Intelligence Agency (AIA), the proponent for the AR, was contacted to determine the source document for this requirement. The AIA indicated that the source document was a DCID, but could not specify which one. The Directorate for Estimates (DE), DIA, was also contacted. The DE indicated that it was custom and DE had basically confirmed this with NIE Production at CIA.

3. Based on the above information, recommend specific policy concerning this issue be established to preclude future misconceptions concerning the classification of NIE numbers and titles.

4. DIA point of contact is [redacted] OS-4C, 373-2744, secure (gray) 981-2780.

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FOR THE DIRECTOR:

1 Enclosure a/s

STAT

[redacted]
Assistant Deputy Director for
Security and Counterintelligence

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*AR 381-19

SEP 9 1981

ARMY REGULATION

NO. 381-19

ACCESSION NO _____
PO REGISTER
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 15 July 1981

INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT

Effective 15 August 1981

This revision updates policies, responsibilities, and procedures for requesting intelligence dissemination and production support. Local limited supplementation of this regulation is permitted but is not required. If supplements are issued, HQDA agencies and major Army commands will furnish one copy of each to HQDA(DAM-FIR), WASH DC 20310; other commands will furnish one copy of each to the next higher headquarters.

Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by The Adjutant General. Users will destroy interim changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

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* This regulation supersedes AR 381-19, 25 March 1977, including all changes.

15 July 1981

AR 381-16

TM 30 series and TB 381-5 series publications to ITAC (IAX-M-DD) before dissemination to an account.

Dissemination of national-level estimates. a. National-level estimates consist of the following documents:

- (1) National intelligence estimate (NIE).
- (2) Special national intelligence estimate (SNIE).
- (3) National intelligence analytical memorandum (NIAM).
- (4) Interagency intelligence memorandum (IIM).

b. National-level estimates are designed to serve the requirements of high-level policy-making indi-

viduals and groups such as the President and members of the National Security Council that make national security policy. National-level estimates are not appropriate background documents to support contingency plans of tactical units, corps level and below. Normally, national-level estimates are not disseminated below Army MACOM level.

c. Requests for national-level estimates will be sent on DD Form 1142 to HQDA(DAMI-FIR), WASH DC 20310. Each request must contain the purpose for which the estimate will be used.

d. Requestors are reminded that the correlation of an NIE number and its title is **SECRET**. Requests containing both the NIE number and title must be classified accordingly.